

REMARKS

The election/restriction requirement dated November 26, 2008 holds that this application contains claims directed to five patentably distinct species. More specifically, Applicants are required to elect one of the following patentably distinct species for prosecution on the merits under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Species Group I - Figures 1-17, claims 1-12 and 14-22 ;

Species Group II - Figures 18 and 19, claims 1-22;

Species Group III- Blade bodies and the end ring (plate?) being integrally molded and the end ring molded as a separate member, claims 1-7, 12, 14-17, 21, and 22 ;

Species Group IV - Blade bodies and the end ring being integrally molded and the end plate molded as a separate member, claims 1-3, 8-11, 12, 14, and 18-22; and

Species Group V - Blade bodies and the end plate and the end ring are integrally molded, and just the blade covers attach to blade bodies by fitting the blade covers into the blade bodies, claims 1-3, 12, 14, 21, and 22.

Additionally, the Office Action indicates that at least claims 1-3, 12, 14, 21, and 22 are generic.

In response, Applicants hereby elect Species I without traverse. Applicant believes that claims 1-12 and 14-22 read on Figures 1-17.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request examination of claims 1-12 and 14-22 since they read on the elected species shown in Figures 1-17. Claim 13 is believed to be directed to a non-elected embodiment. Thus, this claim can be withdrawn from consideration in this case. However, Applicants respectfully request that this non-elected claim be considered upon the allowance of a generic claim in accordance with U.S. patent practice.

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Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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